

Mr. Wells.
Mr. Bowler III^A.
Transmit
have attached to 12/20/37

W. H. Hallett
MR. HALLETT.



BOROUGH OF OSSETT.
1936.

W. L. Wood

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
W. L. RENÉ WOOD, ESQ.

Together with the
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



OSSETT:
S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

12/19/37
III^a



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Sanitary Committee, 1936

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR W. E. BICKLE.

Members :

ALDERMAN D. ELLIS, J.P.

„ G. MOORHOUSE (Mayor).

„ W. PATTERSON.

„ C. MASON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR W. ARMITAGE.

„ A. F. GLOVER.

„ N. MARSDEN, J.P.

„ E. B. NETTLETON.

„ H. OLDROYD.

„ J. W. GILL.

„ C. STEAD.

„ S. B. STEAD.

„ P. ELLIS.

„ O. BETTLEY.

„ R. HALL.



TO THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my 26th annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough.

I have again to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for the support accorded to me, and I have also to thank the Officials for their assistance and co-operation.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.—The area of the district is 3,332 acres. The population at the Census of 1931 was 14,834. The estimated population at the middle of 1936 is 14,080. This is based on the adjusted figures after the Census of 1931, and allowance made for the varying rates of natural increase or decrease as evidenced by births and deaths, and of migration as indicated in the numbers on the Electoral Register and returns obtained from the Board of Trade, from any increase in building activities and ebb and flow of unemployment.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—The Borough of Ossett is a widely-scattered district, the older part of the town consisting of groups of houses at considerable distances apart. The various housing schemes occupy what were spaces between these groups, and the new roads, Queen's Drive and Kingsway, link up these areas, and give rise to a condition of more continuity and regular street conformation. The area of land used in agriculture is becoming less each year and now comprises a comparatively small proportion of the total acreage of the Borough. The whole area occupies an elevated position. The highest point is Gawthorpe, to the N.W., with an altitude of 400ft. above sea level. The centre of the town is 300ft. high. The Northern portion slopes to the N.E. On the West, the slope is more abrupt, to the

Chickenley Beck and Pildacre Beck. The Southern boundary is formed by the River Calder, which flows from W. to E., the land sloping towards it rapidly. There is a more gradual inclination of the S.E. portion of the Borough to Whitley Spring Beck. Outfall sewage works are situated at Healey and the Spa, and to these points the sewage is conveyed by gravitation.

The geological formation belongs to the coal measures series, and consists of sandstone and shale, with beds of coal. Sandstone rock crowns the summits of the various elevations, and the surface partakes of the nature of the underlying rock, being sandy and stony, but it is clayey in parts when it is derived from the disintegration of shale.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—Ossett is primarily an industrial town. The staple industry consists of the rag trade, the making of shoddy and mungo. This part of the industry is responsible for the employment of a large proportion of the inhabitants, and involves a considerable amount of female labour. No ill-effects can be attributed to this industry. Vegetable life and plant life are undoubtedly affected by the products of carbonising. The remainder of the workers amongst the population find employment in cloth manufacture, coal mining, and a small proportion in agriculture.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.—The number of inhabited houses at the Census of 1931 was 3,721, and the number of families or separate occupiers 3,793.

The number of houses built during 1936 was as follows:—

Houses eligible for subsidy (Corporation)	Nil
Do. (Private)	... Nil
Others	... 97
<hr/>	
Total	... 97
<hr/>	

RATEABLE VALUE.—The rateable value of the property within the Borough amounts to £65,394. A penny rate realises the sum of £239 (estimated).

PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS.—The number of voters on the Register in Ossett for the year 1936 was: Autumn Register,
Local Government Electors, 7,658.
Parliamentary, 10,078.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.—The amount expended on outdoor relief in the Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1936, was £8,914 9s. 1d. Apart from the Public Assistance Committee, gratuitous medical relief is obtained from the Dewsbury and Wakefield Hospitals. Further gratuitous medical relief is also obtained from the Leeds and Bradford Infirmaries.

METEOROLOGY.—Rainfall for the year: January 2·44in., February 2·34in., March 2·78in., April 1·14in., May 0·81in., June 3·84in., July 2·93in., August 1·45in., September 1·88in., October 0·97in., November 4·01in., December 1·42in. Total 26·01in.

Average daily temperature, 46·4° Fahr. The prevailing wind was westerly, this being the direction of the wind for about nine months in the year.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for this information.

SEWAGE WORKS, SPA.—Area drained, 1,950 acres. Population drained, about 10,000.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—Domestic 112,390,552 gallons per annum; Trade 48,052,000 gallons per annum.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), about 1,000,000 gallons. No recent gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS—Combined system of sewage. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Storm water purified in tanks.

OUTFALL WORKS AT HEALEY.—Area drained 1,250 acres. Population drained, about 4,500.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), about 360,000 gallons. No recent gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS.—Proportionate volume, about 270,000 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

STORM WATER.—Combined system. There are four storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Purified by land filtration.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Authority exercising supervision is the West Riding Rivers Board. The result of frequent inspections during the year has been satisfactory. Means are adopted by manufacturers to prevent pollution.

WATER CLOSETS AND CONVERSIONS.—

No. of existing Earth Closets, 31st December, 1936, 347.

No. of Privies converted during the year, 7.

No. of additional Water Closets provided to existing property (including those provided at Factories and Workshops), 13.

No. of Notices served in respect of privy conversions, formal nil, informal 63.

No. of notices complied with, or work carried out in default of owner, 8.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The number of Births registered during the year was 221.

				Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	...	...	108	105
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	3

Giving a birth-rate of 15·12 per annum.

There were 11 stillbirths in the year:—

Males 4, Females 7, Legitimate 10, Illegitimate 1.

DEATHS.—207 deaths occurred during the year:—

Males.	Females.
92	115

Of these, 54 took place in residents in Public Institutions outside the District, the death-rates being:—

(a) Died in the Disttrict, 10·87.

(b) Including deaths outside the District, 14·70.

I append the Vital Statistics as compiled in the recently-issued Report of the Registrar-General for London and the larger towns as compared with those of Ossett.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1936 (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

England and Wales, London, 122 Great Towns and 143 Smaller Towns.

	England and Wales.	122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	143 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	OSSETT.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
Births.					
Live	14·8	14·9	15·0	13·6	15·12
Still	0·61	0·67	0·64	0·53	0·72
Deaths.					
All causes ...	12·1	12·3	11·5	12·5	10·87
Typhoid and para- typhoid fevers	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·00
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·07	0·09	0·04	0·14	0·07
Scarlet fever ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Whooping cough	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06	0·07
Diphtheria ...	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·07
Influenza ...	0·14	0·14	0·15	0·14	0·47
Violence	0·52	0·45	0·39	0·52	0·20
Notifications.					
Smallpox ...	0·00	0·00	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	2·53	2·18	2·48	2·57	1·27
Diphtheria ...	1·39	1·31	1·26	1·69	0·20
Enteric fever ...	0·06	0·05	0·06	0·06	0·00
Erysipelas ...	0·40	0·38	0·35	0·44	0·42
Pneumonia ...	1·11	1·10	0·96	0·99	0·42
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	63	55	66	55
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5·9	8·2	3·4	14·4	0·00
Maternal Mortality.					
Puerperal sepsis	1·40	} Not available			
Others	2·41			—	4·5
Total	3·81				
Maternal Mortality.	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Puerperal sepsis	1·34	} Not available			
Others	2·31				4·2
Total	3·65				
Notifications.					
Puerperal fever ...	3·27	3·46	2·80	3·03	0·00
Puerperal pyrexia	9·64	9·52	7·57	11·15	4·2

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Thirteen deaths took place in infants under one year, four of these occurring in institutions outside the district. Seven deaths were in infants under one week of age. Premature births accounted for six, congenital malformations for three, two were due to atelectasis, and one to each of meningitis and convulsions. The infantile death-rate was 55 per 1,000 births. There were 11 still-births, one of these being illegitimate. The figure for infantile mortality compares favourably with those published in the Registrar-General's returns for the Country. As I have previously pointed out, this figure appears to have reached a certain average for the last few years, and it suggests that some important factors have not yet been controlled. I think one is entitled to grade the various groups of mortality in accordance with the average living conditions under which these infants are born and died, and it must be admitted that some of the causes of ante-natal and first day deaths, such as premature birth and congenital malformations, are more affected by adverse environmental conditions, or conditions associated with these, than with difficult or complicated labour. Some mothers *have* to work, perhaps on account of the husband being unemployed. Separation from the mother with consequent loss of breast milk should be avoided, but this, to a certain extent, could be dealt with by increased health visiting and the provision of specially trained nurses to handle these feeble babies. This might do much to tide them over the difficult first weeks of life and establish a sufficient degree of health and strength to enable them to support the conditions of life imposed upon them, with reasonable chance of success.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Twenty-nine cases were notified: scarlet fever 18, erysipelas 6, diphtheria 3, puerperal pyrexia 1, and anthrax 1. The year has been remarkably free from infectious diseases, and it is particularly interesting to note the low incidence of diphtheria as compared with previous years, and it is specially noteworthy that not a single case occurred amongst the immunised children.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—Seven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and six from other forms of tubercular disease were notified. Four were admitted to sanatorium.

CHILD WELFARE.—Our thanks are due to the Committee, officials and voluntary helpers for their continued interest and help in working the Centre. The weekly attendance has again increased, so that the sessions have become overcrowded, and the necessity for a second one during the week must be seriously considered. It must be fairly obvious that this kind of work cannot possibly be done in a hurry and that a hustling atmosphere must, at all costs, be avoided. A second weekly session means a complete reorganisation of the Centre. Additional assistance will be required. Provision for more intensive home visiting has become an urgent need; mothers who, for various reasons, cannot attend the Welfare depend, to a large extent, on the advice of the visiting nurse. Increased facilities in this direction also call for development, and can only be successfully carried out by the provision of an additional Health Visitor.

Total attendances during the year:—

(a) Children under one year	...	...	2,573
(b) Children between one and five	...	...	2,617

Total number of children who attended the Centre for the first time during the year:—

(a) Under one year	...	...	...	152
(b) From one to five	...	...	...	20

Total number of children who were in attendance at the end of the year:—

(a) Under one year	...	...	...	125
(b) From one to five	...	...	...	371

Percentage of infants under one year to notified births who attended the Centre, 77 per cent.

Visits by Health Visitor:—

(a) To expectant mothers—				
(i) First visits	...	...	...	5
(ii) Total visits	...	...	...	47
(b) To children under one year—				
(i) First visits	...	...	...	197
(ii) Total visits	...	...	...	1,722
(c) To children between one and five	...	...	...	1,887

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.—The total number of expectant women who attended the Clinic during the year was 102, this figure represents 52 per cent. of the notified births.

Fourteen were sent to the Maternity Hospital, four for Cæsarian Section. There was one maternal death.

Here again, increased attendances make it imperative to hold fortnightly Clinics. More time is now needed to do the work satisfactorily and opportunity should be given to the expectant mothers for more frequent visits.

WATER SUPPLY.—The periodical analyses show the water to vary very little in its chemical constitution, and the bacteriological investigations prove the water to be organically pure.

Appended are the latest chemical and bacteriological reports:—

Analytical Report on two Samples of Water from Pildacre.

Parts per 100,000.					Crude.	Treated.
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	136.36	104.59
Organic matter	...	...	...	...	3.20	3.00
Mineral Solids	...	...	...	...	133.16	101.59
Silica	...	...	...	...	3.90	3.90
Iron and Alumina	...	...	...	...	.60	.40
Calcium	...	...	...	...	7.20	.80
Magnesium	...	...	...	...	4.82	.66
Sulphate	...	...	...	...	33.66	33.30
Chloride	...	...	...	...	19.60	19.80
Carbonates (fixed CO ₃)	...	...	...	...	29.40	9.00
Sodium	...	...	...	...	33.98	33.73
					133.16	101.59
Total Carbonic Acid (H ₂ CO ₃)	...	...	...	...	59.72	18.30
General Composition.						
Calcium Bicarbonate	...	...	...	...	29.16	3.24
Magnesium Bicarbonate	...	...	...	...	29.39	4.02
Sodium Bicarbonate	...	...	...	...	18.15	17.21
Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	...	32.48	32.85
Sodium Sulphate	...	...	...	...	49.80	49.27
Silica, Iron and Alumina	...	...	...	...	4.50	4.30
					163.48	110.89
Subtract Volatile H ₂ CO ₃	...	...	...	...	30.32	9.30
					133.16	101.59
Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	18.00	2.00
Magnesium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	16.68	2.28
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	34.3	3.5
Temporary Hardness (by boiling)	...	...	...	...	20.0	2.5
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	14.3	1.5
pH	...	...	...	...	6.6	7.6
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	.050	.050
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	.004	.002
Oxygen required to oxidise organic matter in 1 hour at 98°F.	...	...	...	...	.032	.016
Lead present	...	...	...	...	None	None

A. JAFFE,
Richardson and Jaffe.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of water collected from Pildacre Water Works, Ossett.

Bacterial Content—

Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 2 days at 37°C.=3 per ml. of water.

Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 3 days at 22°C.=13 per ml. of water.

Presumptive B. Coli—

None in 100 ml. of water.

The examination shows that this water is satisfactory.

P. L. SUTHERLAND.

VACCINATION.—This is being more and more neglected. Under the present unvaccinated condition of the community an epidemic visiting the district would spell disaster.

HOUSING.—The outcry for small houses is still prevalent, although this has been, to some extent, relieved by private enterprise.

ROADS.—Generally speaking, the condition of the roads in the Borough has been satisfactory. Private streets, which in many instances have become a nightmare to vehicular traffic, are in many cases in a disgraceful condition. Filling up “ pot holes ” with ashes has been aptly described as “ a series of monuments of ill-spent time,” yet this is a popular and useless method of relieving the tension of public opinion. These deep cavities, when filled with water after rain, are a source of danger to pedestrians and particularly to children whose only playground is the street in which they live. On many occasions appeal has been made for “ serious consideration,” now the outcry, voiced in the many letters which reach me, is for action.

W. L. RENE WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1936 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number.	Nett.		Number. 6	Rate. 7	of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number. 4	Rate. 5					Number. 10	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11		
												Number. 12	Rate
1927	15,050		243	16.67	169	11.60		32	14	57	201	31.60
1928	14,570		255	17.61	168	11.53		41	14	55	208	14.34
1929	14,760		248	16.90	195	13.21		57	21	88	252	17.07
1920	14,940		221	14.70	156	10.44		47	15	58	203	13.50
1931	14,838		224	15.09	185	12.60		42	16	71	227	15.30
1932	14,960		213	14.82	162	10.82		43	4	19	205	13.71
1933	14,780		199	13.46	143	9.66		54	9	45	197	13.32
1934	14,320		211	14.08	150	10.63		58	10	55	208	14.07
1935	14,110		236	16.44	153	10.83		57	13	64	210	14.87
1936	14,080		221	15.12	153	10.87		54	13	55	207	14.70

Area of District in acres } 3332
(land and inland water).

Total population at all ages 14,834 }
Number of inhabited houses 4,247 } At Census of 1931.

Estimated population for 1937, 14,350.

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1936.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths.	DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified in each Ward.				HOSPITAL.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.														North Ward.	East Ward.	Central Ward.	West Ward.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.								
Smallpox														Smallpox							
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	3						1	1				1		Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1		1	1	3		
Erysipelas	6										2	2	2	Erysipelas	2	2	1	1			
Scarlet Fever	18			1	1	1		4	4	4	3			Scarlet Fever	4	7	4	3	17		
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)														Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)							
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1									1				Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia ...		1					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Cerebro-spinal Meningitis														Ophthalmia Neonatorum Cerebro-spinal Meningitis							
Anthrax	1										1			Anthrax		1			1		
Totals	29			1	1	1	1	5	4	5	6	3	2	Totals	7	11	6	5	21		
Acute Primary Pneumonia; Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	6							1	2			2	1	Acute Primary Pneumonia; Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	1	2	2	Sanatorium. 4		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7							1	1	2	2	1		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3	1			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6						2	2		1			1	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	3	1				
Totals	48			1	1	1	3	9	7	8	8	6	4	Totals	12	16	12	8			

Isolation Hospital—Smallpox Hospital, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett

Total available beds 8.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—one.

N.B.—Notifications refer to the present year only.

Deaths due to Tubercular diseases include cases notified prior to January 1st, 1930.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1936.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES.					CAUSE OF DEATH.	ANALYSIS OF NETT DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE.												
(a) Actually Registered in the District.			(b) Transferred to the District from outside.	(5)		(7)	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	3 and under 4.	4 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Private Residents.	Inmates of Public Institutions.																		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Belonging to the District.	To be transferred away.	Belonging to the District.	To be transferred away.		(6)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	
					Measles	1		1										
					Scarlet Fever ..													
					Whooping Cough ..	1				1								
		1			Diphtheria and croup	1										1		
					Influenza	7			1			1		1		1	3	
					Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..													
					Cerebro Spinal Fever													
					Encephalitis Lethargica ..													
					Meningococcal Meningitis ..													
				3	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7					1		3	2		1		
		1			Other tuberculous diseases	1					1							
				3	Cancer, malignant disease ..	20									1	6	12	
					General Paralysis of Insane ('Tabes D.') ..													
				1	Rheumatic Fever ..													
					Diabetes													
				1	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc	13								1		2	10	
				6	Heart Disease ..	65								2	7	27	29	
					Aneurysm	1									1			
				6	Other circulatory diseases ..	18										1	6	
				1	Bronchitis	3										1	2	
				2	Pneumonia (all forms)	4			1							2	1	
					Other respiratory diseases	1							1					
					Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum ..	2							1			1		
					Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)													
				1	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1					1							
				4	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	13							1	2		6	4	
					Puerperal Sepsis ..	1									1			
					Cirrhosis of Liver ..													
					Other Diseases of Liver, etc...	1										1		
					Other Digestive Diseases	2												
					Acc. & Dis. of Pregnancy & Parturition	2									1		1	
				4	Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth ..	13	13											
					Suicides	1									1			
				3	Other Deaths from Violence	4		1			2						1	
				14	Other Defined Diseases	19										3	3	
					Causes ill-defined or unknown											6	7	
				3	Senility	5												
				54	TOTALS	207	13	1	2	1	1	5	1	6	15	16	61	86

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1936.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified ...										
	{ Uncertified ...										
Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox ...										
	{ Chicken-pox ..										
	{ Measles ...										
	{ Scarlet Fever ...										
	{ Whooping Cough ...										
	{ Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)										
	{ Typhoid Fever ..										
	Erysipelas ...										
Tuberculous Diseases.	{ Tuberculous Menin- gitis ...										
	{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ..										
	{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ...										
	Meningitis ... (not Tuberculous)							1			1
	Convulsions ...						1				1
	Laryngitis ...										
	Bronchitis ...										
	Influenza ...										
	Pneumonia (all forms)										
	Encephalitis Lethargica										
Diarrhœal Diseases.	{ Diarrhœa, all forms										
	{ Enteritis ... (not Tuberculous)										
	Gastritis ...										
	Syphilis ...										
	Rickets ...										
	Suffocation, overlaying Atelectasis ...		1	1							2
Wasting Diseases.	{ Injury at Birth ...										
	{ Congenital Malfor- mations ...	1	1	1							3
	{ Premature Birth ..	6									6
	{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...										
Toxic Jaundice of New-Born ...											
TOTALS ...		7	2	2			1	1			13

Births in the year	{	legitimate ...	213
		illegitimate...	8

Deaths in the year	{	legitimate infants ...13
	{	illegitimate infants... 0



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1936.

Population at Census of 1931, 14,838.

Number of occupied houses at Census of 1931, 4,247.

Area of Borough in acres, 3,332.

Density of Population (i.e., number of persons per acre), 4.02.

Total number of Births—Males	113
Females	108
Illegitimate	8
Stillbirths	11

Birth-rate per 1,000 living, 15.12.

Number of Deaths—Males	92
Females	115
Illegitimate	Nil

Death-rate per 1,000 within the District, 10.87.

Death-rate per 1,000, including deaths outside the District, 14.70

Phthisis death-rate, .30.

Death-rate from all forms of Tubercular Diseases, including
Phthisis, .38.

Number of deaths in infants under one year, 13.

Males	9
Females	4
Illegitimate	Nil

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births, 55.

Estimated population to middle of 1937, 14,350.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Year ended 31st December, 1936.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Eighth Annual Report on the work carried out in my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1936. As in previous years, the Section of the Report relating to House Refuse Removal and Disposal is for the financial year ended 31st March, 1937.

HOUSING.

The most important feature in connection with housing during 1936 was the information obtained in respect of overcrowding. Legislation, in the form of the Housing Act, 1935, required Local Authorities to survey their districts for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of overcrowding, and further to prepare schemes for relieving such conditions.

With the assistance of additional staff, recruited locally, the survey of your district was duly carried out, and the information resulting therefrom was submitted to the Council. When the report was considered, the position as regards additional housing requirements could not be visualised with any degree of accuracy, because a comprehensive inspection of your district for slum clearance purposes had not at that time been made—obviously any additions to the then existing programme would have a direct bearing on the overcrowding position.

The survey revealed that overcrowding was most prevalent in two-roomed dwellings. Of the 273 such dwellings found to be overcrowded, 53 were occupied by families with one-half unit in excess of the permitted number, and 97 exceeded the permitted number by one unit.

During the year 30 overcrowded cases were relieved, and the number of persons concerned in such cases was $134\frac{1}{2}$.

Progress in the erection of working class dwellings by private enterprise was well maintained during the year. One feature of note in this connection was the activity on a private estate of some 70 working class houses to let.

During 1936 79 houses were erected in your district; of this number 49 were of a type suitable for occupation by members of the working class.

Work under slum clearance was responsible for 9 areas being declared Clearance Areas. The 9 areas comprise 41 dwellings, housing a population of 168 persons.

The owners of 4 of the areas did not object to the proposals; 2 areas formed the subject of an Inquiry on objections being made by the respective owners; the remaining 3 areas were represented in December, 1936.

Three representations were made in respect of individual unfit houses, and 2 Demolition Orders were made. The third Order was pending at the close of the year.

Two underground rooms (cellar kitchens) were closed in pursuance of Closing Orders.

The provision of re-housing accommodation for displaced tenants on the Swithenbank Estate commenced in July.

There were no transfers of tenants during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during year—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	79
					<hr/>
Total	...				79
					<hr/>

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	328
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					536
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses [included under sub-head (i) above], which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulation	...	...	...	...	198
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					306
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses needing further action	...	...	...	...	198
(a)	Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	180
(b)	Number [excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	18

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	2
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...				1
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...				1
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	5
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(i) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation ...	3
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners—Section 19(2)	—
(a) To render houses fit for human habitation	—
(b) As to usage other than for human habitation	—

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 84, Housing Act, 1935—

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms closed in pursuance of Closing Orders ...	2
(iii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Name of Area.	No. of houses.	No. of occupants.	Remarks.
Howroyd's Yard, High Street	5	21	Unopposed. Order confirmed
Dewsbury Road	5	18	Unopposed. Order confirmed
Robinson's Croft, Teall Street	7	25	Order opposed. Enquiry pending
Town End	2	8	Order opposed. Enquiry pending
Fozard's Yard	2	8	Unopposed. Confirmation not to hand
South Parade No. 1	4	13	Unopposed. Confirmation not to hand
Radley Street No. 1	10	46	Represented 1/12/36
Radley Street No. 2	3	20	Represented 1/12/36
David Street No. 1	3	9	Represented 1/12/36
Totals	41	168	

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Increasing difficulty in securing the conversion of privies to water-closets was responsible for an application being made to the Ministry of Health for an Order declaring Sections 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, operative in the district. The Minister of Health granted the application, and made an Order which came into force on the 10th August, 1936. In anticipation of this, financial provision to the extent of a penny rate had been made, but it was not possible in the remaining period of the year to take advantage of the provision.

Improvements effected during the year include the conversion of 7 and abolition of 2 privies, the provision of 13 additional water-closets to existing buildings, and the abolition of 7 ash-pits and 5 automatic trough closets.

The following table gives details of improvements effected during the year:—

Privies converted to water-closets	7
Privies abolished	2
Additional water-closets provided to existing buildings	13
Water-closets provided to new buildings	77
Ashpits (wet) abolished	5
Ashpits (dry) abolished	2
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits	16
Ashbins provided for new buildings	79
Automatic trough closets abolished	5

The following table shows the existing sanitary accommodation at the end of 1936:—

Privies in connection with ashpits	347
Slop (tipper) closets	59
Water closets	3499
Pail closets	7
Trough closets	69
Ashpits in connection with privies	234
Ashpits (dry)	205
Ashbins	3429

MEAT INSPECTION.

Systematic inspection of food carcasses is responsible for the expenditure of considerable time during each week. In addition to the work on weekdays inspections were carried out on 51 Sundays during the year. Sunday slaughtering is confined to wholesale pig slaughterers, and the bulk of the carcasses are dressed for delivery to premises outside the district.

The meat supply was well maintained both as regards quality and quantity throughout the year. The quantity of dead meat coming into the town forms only a small percentage of the requirements of the trade.

During the year there was one seizure of meat, viz.: a sheep carcase. The circumstances were reported to the Council and instructions given for legal proceedings to be taken. The case was pending at the close of the year.

With the exception of the incident mentioned above, my Department worked in harmony with the trade, and in all cases of condemnation my decision was accepted and voluntary surrender made.

Food carcases inspected during the year:—

Bovines	...	...	...	...	776
Swine	...	...	...	...	3370
Calves	...	...	...	...	8
Sheep	...	...	...	...	1300
					<hr/>
Total					... 5454
					<hr/>

Percentage of animals found to be diseased.

Animal.		No. inspected.	No. found diseased.	Percentage diseased.
				%
Bovines	...	776	77	9.9
Swine	...	3,370	407	12.0
Sheep	...	1,300	7	—
Calves	...	8	—	—

During the year 20 meat carcases were found to be totally unfit for human food, compared with 24 in 1935.

In all cases of condemnation the affected meat and offals were destroyed by incineration.

The total weight of meat, etc., destroyed during the year was 6 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 25 lbs., compared with 7 tons 7 cwts. 1 qr. 25½ lbs. in the previous year.

The following tables give particulars of carcasses and organs surrendered and destroyed:—

Carcasses with all organs condemned as totally unfit for human consumption.

Animal.	Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.
Bullocks	1	—
Cows	*9	—
Swine	2	†5
Sheep	—	‡3

* 9 cows taken under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

† 5 swine—2 jaundice, 1 erysipelas, 2 dropsy.

‡ 3 sheep—1 dropsy, 2 moribund.

Carcasses partially condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Animal.	Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.
Bullocks	3	—
Pigs	1	—

Various organs condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	Heads.	Tongues.	Lungs.	Livers.	Mesenteric Fats.
Tuberculosis.					
Cows	7	7	13	—	1
Bullocks	17	17	10	2	—
Heifers	2	2	1	1	—
Pigs	199	—	158	153	188
Parasitic Diseases.					
Cows	—	—	—	2	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	1	—
Inflammatory Diseases.					
Cows	—	—	—	3	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	1	—
Heifers	—	—	—	1	—
Pigs	—	—	17	13	—
Sheep	—	—	—	5	—

Summary of food destroyed during 1936:—

Beef and beef offals	...	...	7860	pounds
Pork and pork offals	...	...	5933	„
Mutton and mutton offals	...	...	255	„
Rabbit offals	...	...	5	„
Vegetables	...	...	56	„
Total			14109	

6 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 25 lbs.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of slaughter-houses in the district is the same as last year, viz., 13—12 licensed and one registered.

Cleanliness and limewashing are well maintained, and with two exceptions the structure are in good condition.

1,000 visits were made to slaughter-houses during the year, compared with 796 in 1935.

MARKETS.

Regular inspections were made of the food supplies exposed for sale in the market.

There were no seizures during the year.

, TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

Regular inspection by Veterinary Officers of the milk herds in your district was chiefly responsible for the 18 notifications received under Art. 4 of the Order.

Following valuation the offending animals were slaughtered and examined post-mortem by your Veterinary Surgeon and myself. In all cases the owners were given the opportunity of being present when the examinations were carried out.

Nine of the 18 cows slaughtered had the disease in an advanced stage and the remainder had the disease confined to certain organs.

On the Council's instructions proceedings were taken against a farmer for failure to notify diseased conditions in accordance with Article 2(1). The case was heard at the Borough Court, and the defendant was fined £2 and costs.

The following table shows the form of disease reported by the Veterinary Inspector, together with the valuation of each animal and the compensation paid to the respective owners:—

Case No.	Tuberculosis of the udder.	Giving tuberculous milk.	Tuberculous emaciation.	Chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs of tuberculosis.	Valuation.	Compensa- tion to owner.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	1	—	—	—	9 0 0	6 15 0
2	—	—	—	1	12 10 0	9 7 6
3	—	1	—	—	6 0 0	1 10 0
4	—	1	—	—	15 0 0	3 15 0
5	—	1	—	—	10 0 0	7 10 0
6	—	—	—	1	8 0 0	6 0 0
7	1	—	—	—	17 0 0	12 15 0
8	—	—	—	1	12 0 0	9 0 0
9	—	—	—	1	10 0 0	2 10 0
10	—	—	—	1	11 0 0	8 5 0
11	—	—	—	1	12 0 0	9 0 0
12	—	—	—	1	9 0 0	2 5 0
13	—	—	—	1	7 0 0	1 15 0
14	—	—	—	1	5 0 0	1 10 0
15	—	—	—	1	5 0 0	3 15 0
16	1	—	—	—	12 10 0	3 2 6
17	—	—	1	—	1 10 0	1 10 0
18	1	—	—	—	8 0 0	2 0 0
Totals	4	3	1	10	170 10 0	92 5 0

The total valuation of the 18 cows was £170 10s. 0d. and the amount of compensation paid to the owners was £92 5s. 0d. After deducting expenses, the amount received for salvage was £47 13s. 6d.

MILK PRODUCTION.

The quantity of milk produced in the area is in excess of the requirements of the district and the area of delivery of some of our producers extends into adjoining districts. So far as I am aware, there has been no shortage of supply at any time during the year.

Production of accredited milk remained stationary, the number of producers standing at 3. I must again register a feeling of disappointment at the small number of accredited producers on the register. Accredited should be the lowest grade of milk produced in the district and not the highest. I sometimes wonder if the consuming public have not something to do with the position.

During the year 123 visits were made to cowsheds.

There are 28 registered cowkeepers, and 45 registered milk sellers in the district.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Two licences were issued during the year, viz., 2 supplementary licences to retail Pasteurised milk.

Three licences were issued by the West Riding County Council for the production of Accredited milk.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.

During the year 5 samples of milk were obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst. Four of the samples were found to be genuine. With regard to sample No. 59 the Analyst reported that "the milk had been deprived of a portion of its natural fat by skimming or other treatment." In this case a warning was issued to the vendor.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

One case of suspected swine fever was reported, and following investigations by the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the disease was not confirmed. This was the only incident of note during the year.

RAT REPRESSION.

Corporation properties were treated with poison gas at frequent intervals.

Poster display on the refuse vehicles and circulars were the means adopted to call public attention to National Rat Week.

A small section of occupiers took advantage of our offer of assistance in bait laying, etc., but I fear there are many who do not fully realise their responsibility in this connection.

DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS.

Disinfection is carried out after all cases of notifiable infectious disease. Clothing and bedding are removed from the patients' homes to the Disinfecting Station and treated with steam. Houses are sprayed and fumigated.

Verminous premises are, at the request of the owner, treated with insecticide, at a charge sufficient to cover bare costs.

During the year 28 houses were disinfected, and 15 treated for vermin.

OFFENSIVE TRADE PREMISES.

There were no complaints received during the year.

The premises and utensils are kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Work carried out for the improvement of sanitary conditions at factories and workshops includes the conversion of one privy and the provision of three additional water-closets. Two other nuisances were also dealt with.

The following table gives details of improvements effected during the year:—

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	27	4	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	14	2	—
Workplaces	—	—	—
Total	41	6	—

Defects found in Factories and Workshops. Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M.I.
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—
Other nuisances	2	2	—
Sanitary accommodation:			
Insufficient	3	2	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Total	6	5	—

REFUSE COLLECTION, TRANSPORT, AND DISPOSAL.

No doubt in the eyes of many people the prime feature of a Cleansing Department is costs, but it must be remembered that the service is entirely one of public health. That being so, it has been my endeavour to give the best possible service for the money expended.

The number of houses in the district has increased considerably during the past few years, yet the cost of the service has remained at a fairly constant figure (see Table of Comparative Costs for past 5 years), a possible reason for this is a reduction in the number of privy middens and the increased number of ashbins now in use.

Towards the end of the year a marked increase was noted in the quantity of shop refuse, due no doubt to better trade conditions. In one or two cases the quantity is such as to make one ask the question, Has the time not arrived when a charge should be made for the service?

Transport in connection with public cleansing is maintained by two motor wagons, viz., one Morris 25 cwt. wagon and one Dennis 30 cwt. wagon. The Morris was purchased in 1929 and the Dennis in 1931. For costing purposes, depreciation in respect of the vehicles has been made as follows: Dennis 6 months, Morris nil.

During the year we commenced a new tip on land adjoining the cricket field, following a request by the Cricket Club Committee. The tip is free and will provide tipping accommodation for some considerable time. When completed it is intended to use the land for a sports ground. The tips at Flushdyke and Queen's Drive continue to be used, though not as much as previously. It has been necessary to extend the tipping area at Queen's Drive. Culvert extensions and compensation cost £81 16s. 9d. For costing purposes this item will be spread over a period of three years.

Reference to the cost table shows that £1,668 13s. 8d. has been charged to the service, compared with £1,677 17s. 10d. for the previous year.

The service represents a cost per house per annum of 7s. 4·9d., or 1·69 pence per week.

Weight of refuse collected per house per annum shows a slight decrease—1·30 tons, as against 1·34 tons in 1935–36.

COSTS.

				Net cost.			Cost per ton.		
				£	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Collection	...	...	...	729	11	4	...	2	5·8
Transport	...	...	...	613	8	0	...	2	1·0
Disposal	...	...	...	325	14	4	...	1	1·1
				<hr/>			<hr/>		
Total	...	...	...	£1668	13	8	...	5	7·9
				<hr/>			<hr/>		

Comparative costs for the last 5 years:—

				£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1936–37	...	...	...	1668	13	8	...	5 7·9
1935–36	...	...	...	1677	17	10	...	5 8·1
1934–35	...	...	...	1649	19	2	...	5 7·7
1933–34	...	...	...	1606	1	11	...	5 7·0
1932–33	...	...	...	1666	9	3	...	5 10·4

CLEANSING COSTS IN RELATION TO POPULATION AND PREMISES.

	Per annum.	Per week. (52).
COLLECTION.		
Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£50·83	£0·97
Net cost per head of population ...	1s. 0·2d.	0·23d.
Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	£162·08	£3·08
Net cost per house ...	3s. 2·9d.	0·74d.

TRANSPORT.

Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£42·7	£0·8
Net cost per head of population ...	10·25d.	0·19d.
Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	£136·25	£2·62
Net cost per house ...	2s. 8·7d.	0·62d.

	Per annum.	Per week. (52).
DISPOSAL		
Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£22·66	£0·43
Net cost per head of population ...	5·44d.	0·10d.
Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	£72·08	£1·38
Net cost per house ...	1s. 5·3d.	0·33d.

COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL.

Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£116·19	£2·20
Net cost per head of population ...	2s. 3·89d.	0·52d.
Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	£370·41	£7·08
Net cost per house ...	7s. 4·9d.	1·69d.

REFUSE COLLECTED IN RELATION TO POPULATION AND PREMISES.

Refuse collected per 1,000 population	408 tons	7·8 tons
Refuse collected per head of population	8·17 cwt.	0·15 cwt.
Refuse collected per 1,000 houses ...	1300 tons	25·0 tons
Refuse collected per house ...	1·30 tons	0·5 cwt.

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing	536
Overcrowding	11
Verminous premises	57
Rat infested premises	18
Tents, vans and sheds	4
Factories and workshops (including bakehouses)	57
Slaughterhouses	1000
Markets	53
Shops re food supplies	10
Shops, miscellaneous	12
Ice-cream premises	5
Cowsheds and dairies	123
Privies and ashpits	36
Offensive trade premises	6
Fried fish shops	31
Keeping of animals and offensive accumulations	16
Smoke	5
Refuse removal	20
Drains inspected	124
Tips	107
Miscellaneous	80

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

Light and ventilation improved	1
Rendered free from dampness	1
Food stores improved	3
Roofs repaired	4
Water supply improved	2
External walls repaired	1
Chimneys repaired	1
New sinks fixed	23
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	27
Eaves-gutters repaired or renewed	5
Fallpipes repaired or renewed	2
Yard paving repaired	1
Windows repaired	3
Plasterwork repaired	13
Floors repaired	7
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	3
Ovens repaired or renewed	2
Coppers repaired or renewed	1

Cleansed and limewashed	1
Fallpipes disconnected from drains	3
Yards drained	2
Water removed from cellars	13
Treated for vermin (bugs, beetles, etc.)	15
Disinfected	28
Other defects remedied	2

WATER-CLOSETS.

Provided in substitution of privies	7
Additional water-closets provided for existing property	13
Erected for new houses	17
Total number provided for houses	88
Total number provided for factories and workshops ...	4
Cisterns repaired	2
Soil pipes repaired	2
New pedestals fixed	2
Provided with sufficient supply of water	2
Cleansed and limewashed	3

WASTE WATER-CLOSETS.

Converted to pedestal water-closets	—
--	---

TROUGH CLOSETS.

Abolished	5
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PRIVY MIDDENS.

Abolished	2
Converted to water-closets	7

ASHPITS.

Abolished (wet)	5
Abolished (dry)	2

ASHBINS.

Provided in lieu of ashpits	16
Provided for new houses	79
Renewed	36

DRAINS.

Reconstructed	8
Cleansed or repaired	22
Under houses abolished or gullies removed	5
Inspection chambers provided	1
Self cleansing gullies provided	6

SCHOOLS.

Disinfected	6
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TENTS, VANS, SHEDS.

Camping grounds cleansed	2
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OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS.

Removed	3
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MISCELLANEOUS	2
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SUMMARY.

NUISANCES FOUND.

Number found during year	271
Number brought forward from 1935	13
Number abated during year	...	...	...	...	261
Number outstanding end of 1936	...	...	...	...	23

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	186
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	174
Statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	132
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	21

I again desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for their consideration of matters referred to them and also to the officials and staff for their ready assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I would also like to record my appreciation of the valuable assistance Mr. Tong has rendered during the year.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WADE,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,

Town Hall, Ossett.

July, 1937.

